

COMMUNICATED.

FROM OUR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT.

NUMBER 3.

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My dear Editor,—You have, from time to time, doubtless seen notices of the new Episcopal church,—the Trinity,—now in the course of erection in Broadway. The plates of it will give you a better idea of its external appearance, than any description of mine. For this country it is a splendid edifice, and will form quite an era in our church architecture. It is a miniature cathedral. I have seen larger in Peru and Brazil, but, without exception, this will be the best specimen of church architecture on our continent. The church possesses immense wealth and is able to build even more magnificently, but it is at the expense of many charities to which its resources were formerly directed. This fact causes the building to be an eye-sore to many,—they thinking that money can be more usefully employed in sustaining their missionaries, and destitute churches, than in sculptured stone, rich carvings, and stained windows. There is certainly some strength in this objection, but there is an argument to many men, cogent, and which lies behind the first. Too little attention has heretofore been paid to beauty and durability in our temples of religion. The most of them are architectural excrescences, and convey to the mind no sentiments in unison with the purposes for which they were erected. Their appearance affects the eye as wretched music does the ear. In either case a feeling of disappointment and even disgust is inevitably mingled with the desires of worship. Those forms and sounds which most favorably dispose the sentiments towards devotion, are certainly to be encouraged. The Protestants, in reforming from the Roman church, have in this respect reformed too far. This they are now conscious of, and in their present church structures, they seek to combine a harmony of artificial effect with the designs for which they build. I am of opinion that the best of men's powers should be devoted to the service of his Creator. His temples should correspond with the grandeur, purity and loftiness, of the faith they represent. When age has spread its hallowing influence over such walls, and centuries of worshippers have within them prayed, repented and adored, their influence over the living will be as deep and firm as their own massive foundations. Associations strong as the divinity that stirs within men, will cluster around the temple where their fathers, and their fathers' fathers knelt in adoration, and the mind will rejoice in the thought, that where they humbly bow before the footstool of their God, their children will likewise. There are some minds so indoctrinated as to view things with no further reference than to their immediate and personal use—indifferent alike to the past and future. But there are far more who cherish the holy associations of the past; with them the happiness arising from such reminiscences, is actual. A nation's faith is best kept active by memorials which speak as loudly to one generation as to another. The Romanists fully appreciate this principle, and their ecclesiastical edifices are built for effect and durability. The Protestants will do well to imitate them. So for one, I hail the rising of those walls:—may the worship that shall arise within them be ever that and that only of "the faith once delivered to the saints."

After its completion divine service is to be held in it twice a week. If with this they adopt the Catholic principle of no pews, but have seats common to all without distinction, it will be a true Church to Jehovah. It is a beautiful and effective truth of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy that before God, rich and poor, noble and ignoble, humble and distinguished, are all alike. Worldly distinctions cease at the threshold of the Church. If to this they had added that man requires no medium; no privileged priesthood, to interfere between himself and his Maker, the

truth would have been complete. But Truth, though she may tortoise like plod slowly on, will eventually win the race.

I commenced this intending only to refer to the building, but I have been led into quite a disquisition. I crave your pardon, and for the present drop church matters.

The fountain in the Park, supplied by the Croton aqueduct, casting its cooling and graceful showers high into the air, reminds me of the great facilities you have at Honolulu for similar works. New York water is now as good as it was formerly bad, which is saying much in its praise. Fountains and hydrants supply the poor gratuitously, and health and temperance have increased in consequence of the abundant supply of the pure element. The rich are enabled to carry it to the roofs of the highest houses, and every chamber is supplied with its bathing apparatus. How easy it would be at Oahu, and at no great expense either, to form a sufficient basin in Nuuanu to supply Honolulu, and by pipes lead it into all the houses, streets, &c.; erect fountains for the use of the populace, and to ornament the town; supply the shipping at the wharves, and nourish the trees which shade the streets. This hint is worthy of your notice, and sooner or later you will take it. If I recollect right the water of Honolulu is very generally hard and disagreeable, impregnated with lime. A lady once told me that after residing a short time in the valley, she noticed a perceptible improvement in the complexions of her children, which she attributed to the change from hard to soft water.

Yours, WAKEBY.

THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1844.

Through the politeness of Mr. Dudoit, Consul for France, we have been put in possession of the 1st. Number of "L'Océanie Française," the official Journal of Tahiti, published May 5th., and to be issued in future every eight days, price six dollars. Its editor shows no little skill and enterprise in the attempt; having no typographical press, he is reduced to the necessity of employing lithography, and his paper is a "feuille autographiée," not so legible as type, but as much so as common writing. It is certainly a literary curiosity. He remarks,—“The apparition of the Océanie Française will create a sensation in France. Modest in its form, our journal will be recherché.” We wish the editor all success in his enterprise, and congratulate ourselves in having a co-operator in our profession, and shall take great pleasure in sending him our journal.

This number is mostly filled with official details of the action of 17th. April, between the Tahitians and the French forces. We condense from the report of the commanding officer to M. Bruat, the Governor of Tahiti, the following particulars. The frigate L'Uranie, corvette La Meurthe, steamer Phœton, and transport Clementine, conveyed the troops amounting to 500 men, to Mahina. Early on the morning of the 17th. the troops disembarked, under cover of the guns of the vessels. The Tahitians, to the number of 900, were strongly entrenched on rising ground, in three ditches, seven feet deep, running parallel with each other toward the sea, for the distance of 1800 mètres, and defended from the fire of the shipping by a glacis. The defendants were sheltered, but their position once turned, retreat became impossible. The fight commenced at 11 o'clock, the French troops rushing to the assault with cries, a thousand times repeated, of "Vive le Roi." In four and a half hours, after a desperate and obstinate resistance, in which the opponents fought man to man, the three redoubts were successively carried. During the resistance the natives kept up a lively fire of musketry and artillery. The guns of the frigate raked the last redoubt, and occasioned the natives a heavy loss. 102 "insurgents" remained upon the field of battle. Before retreating they spiked and dismounted their cannon. Their flag, and

many guns, lances and other arms, were captured. The natives were annoyed in their retreat to the mountain, by the fire from the guns of the Clementine. After bivouacking for the night, on the field of battle, the troops were re-embarked the succeeding morning, and returned to Papeite. In this action the Tahitians stood a bayonet charge from the whole line. French loss, 16 killed and 52 wounded, many of whom afterwards died. Among the dead were two officers.

On the 4th. of May the high chiefs of Tahiti and Eimeo, to the number of 20, met at the Hotel of Government, to discuss measures to effect the complete pacification of the country. These, however, are not of the Queen's party.

It is to be hoped that the decision of the French Ministry in regard to Tahiti, will speedily arrive there, that an end may be put to this warfare. The occasion of the attack upon the natives, was an assault on their part on an outpost of the French. Gov. Bruat is said to be exerting himself to amicably arrange matters with the natives, and acts with humanity towards them. The hostile feeling on their part, however, is so strong, as to render it improbable, that, at least, for a long time to come, any peaceable arrangement can be effected. The conjoint Protectorate Government will meet with many obstacles. Indeed there seems to be but one resource on the part of the French; either to abandon or conquer the island.

May 1st. was the Fête of the King of the French at Tahiti, and was celebrated with military and religious pomp. In the evening the Governor gave a ball. "Des dames anglaises y ont apporté de jolis visages et de jolies toilettes:"—so says the editor.

It does not appear that the Tahitians were intimidated by their losses, as since, they have advanced nearer Papeite, and fears were entertained that they might fire the town. The English missionaries were exerting themselves to restore tranquility. Queen Pomare has been twice invited, by Gov. Bruat to land from the Basilisk, but declined. It is reported that she will shortly leave for the Friendly Islands, on account of her expected accouchement.

THE FRENCH AT THE MARQUESAS.—We learn that the French have as yet made no considerable fortifications on these islands, but have erected merely a fort sufficient to withstand any attack of the natives. There are about 500 troops stationed there, and with them are a few officers' ladies. Provisions are scarce and high. The nominal king has received a commission of a lieutenant Colonel in the French army, and has a handsome salary, but is said to be a miserable drunkard, possessing no great authority over his own subjects. The natives are as much as ever engaged in warfare among themselves. Although well treated by the French, they are inimical to them, jealous probably of the military force stationed among them.

On Monday last the U. S. Ship Levant exchanged salutes with the Fort. The Levant remains in port until after 4th July, and then proceeds to San Francisco, Monterey, and Mexico. The Levant will be succeeded upon this station, by the Sloop Warren, and Frigate Savannah; each vessel to arrive in about one month after the departure of her predecessor. The Levant has on board a number of Americans who were captured, fighting in the ranks of the Tahitians.

LIST OF OFFICERS OF U. S. SHIP LEVANT, Arrived at this port June 9th:—

Paige, Captain;
1st Lieutenant—Robb.
2d do. Handy.
3d do. Adams.
4th do. McLean.
Purser—Rittenhouse.
Master—Read.
Surgeon—Gilchrist.
Midshipmen—Ochiltree, Welsh, Weller, Sewell, Wooley, Taylor, Young, Abercrombie, Gordon, Gregory.

The Hannah reports the yellow fever to have ceased at Guayaquil, or to prevail to a very slight extent. Half of the population has either been destroyed or left the place. Business was dull, and many of the streets overgrown with vegetation.

H. B. M. Ship Talbot is expected here shortly.

We are requested to give notice that the case of Pelly vs. Charlton, in an action for defamation of character, will be tried on Tuesday, the 18th. inst., before H. E. the Governor, at 10 o'clock, A. M. The following are the jurors drawn on the 13th., the parties having been duly notified:—R. C. Wyllie, John Robson, Geo. T. Allan, J. F. B. Marshall, R. W. Wood, James Robinson, Hiram Grimes, Wm. Ladd, C. Brewer, Julius Anthon, Edward S. Benson, John Munn, N. G. Parker.

The captains of vessels in port, will also be notified to attend as talesmen.

THE LAST ONE.—Of a notorious liar it was lately said, that there was no danger to be apprehended from his ghost, for in the grave he would lie still.

ITEMS FROM OUR FOREIGN FILES

RECEIVED BY THE HOKAIKA.

Extracts from Mr. Guizot's Speech in the Chamber of Deputies, on the 20th of January, on the relations of France with England.

"In Oceania also the English Government and ourselves were placed in a critical contact; there also they may have had important interests to protect; previous and powerful national feelings to control. They nevertheless declared—*formally declared*—that they would throw no obstacles in the way of our making a settlement in Oceania. In one particular instance, the English Government have found themselves in a situation nearly similar to our own. One of their Admirals has accepted the protectorship of the Sandwich Islands; but the English Government have refused it, and have proposed to us to acknowledge in common the independence of that archipelago. We have done so, and the independence of the Sandwich Islands may be considered as a fact of capital interest in Oceania; for there is nobody having looked at the map, but is aware of the great importance of that cluster of islands, in the commercial relations of that part of the world."

From the debates in the English parliament, we make the following extract:—

"MR. HINDLEY wished to ask the right hon. baronet whether Her Majesty's Government had received any information as to the approval or disapproval of the occupation of Tahiti and the dethronement of Queen Pomare? He had seen in the second edition of *The Times* newspaper of that morning a statement that the French Government had disapproved of the course which Admiral Dupetit Thouars had taken, and had sent out orders that he should act in accordance with the protective treaty of 1842. He was anxious to hear how far the news was confirmed by official despatches. (Hear, hear.)

"SIR R. PEEL said he had called at the Foreign-office in the course of that morning, and he did not learn that there was any additional information beyond that which appeared in the second edition of *The Times*, received by express. At the same time, he had no doubt of the authenticity of the information in *The Times*, containing, as it did, a quotation from the *Moniteur*, the official organ of the French Government, which stated that a Cabinet Council had been held in Paris, and by that council it was resolved that there had not been sufficient justification for the conduct of the Admiral Dupetit Thouars, and that orders had been given for adherence to the treaty of September, 1842. (Hear, hear.) But he (Sir R. Peel) must say that he deprecated hasty questions upon this subject. (Hear, hear.) He had already stated to the house, certainly in very strong and confident expressions, that he thought there would be no necessity for the British Government to interfere, and that the French King and Government, acting on the impulse of their own feelings, would take that course which would give general satisfaction to the people of this country, who were interested in the fate of those excellent men, our missionaries there; and that the acts of the French admiral would not be ratified by the French Government. (Hear, hear.) He was bound, in justice to the French King and Government, to give them full credit for their disavowal of the proceedings of Admiral Thouars; believing that they would spon-